

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## The Mother's Need

Take out of the count of people who need summer vacations the overworked business man, and there is no one else to be so much benefited by a good rest and congenial change as the mother of a family.

There is no one who considers her own preferences and necessities so little as the mother when the supreme question of "Where shall we go?" is being discussed. If her girls and boys prefer the seashore, she smothered a sigh over the impulse that directs her thoughts elsewhere, even though she is certain that she will return home at the end of some weeks unrefreshed and unprepared to take up home duties with energy and dispatch.

### Busy Rainbow Chasers.

The young people of the present day are selfish and oblivious of much that they ought to regard. They are so anxious to seize hold of pleasure, as they see it, that they leave little or nothing over for others. Professedly, they are devoted to their mother, but they are such busy rainbow chasers that they have little time for care or thought over the fact that mother's face is growing wrinkled and careworn.

She is, generally speaking, the last person to be considered in family arrangements, because she so seldom asserts her claim. Probably she has been on the verge of a little wholesome relaxation and has been pulled sharply out of it by sore throat or the part of one of the children and threatened rheumatism, throwing her husband on her hands to be nursed. Such experiences render her so weary as to make her chronically indifferent to the "when and where" of outings.

**Mother Listless and Tired.**  
It isn't a good sign when a mother says, apathetically, "Oh, it really makes no difference to me, just decide the matter between yourselves." It just amounts to this: that she is losing her individual hold on outside interests. If she is too listless or too tired to consider what she really prefers, then some one else ought to act and think for her.

A summer outing is the mother's chance during the entire year. To her children it merely means a variation of interests and enjoyment. They transfer their environment, that is all. But the mother, haled in the domestic routine which has to go on daily, is always carrying a load of care and responsibility, and all should unite, son, daughter and husband, in studying how to plan the family holiday, so as to give her the greatest amount of pleasure and improvement.

### Her Supreme Need.

Above everything else, beyond the going to the place she likes best, more than the looking out for her little whims and fancies, would be the companionship of husband and father, not just for a perfunctory week-end, but for a well considered and leisurely trip, just such a one as every sane, well-balanced American man ought to indulge himself and his family in once a year.

### Thackeray's Sketch Book.

William Makepeace Thackeray's daughter, Lady Ritchie, has discovered in an old notebook belonging to her father a hitherto unpublished romance called "The Knights of Borsellen," which appears in Harper's Magazine for July. A passage taken from the romance belongs so essentially to its author that the mind would revert to Thackeray even if the great novelist's name were not signed to it. For this is what the quotation says about:

"The One Who Remembers."  
"Farewell, O gentle mother, and peaceful haunts of childhood. The old Chronicle spelled at sunset in the hall window, the old tales of knight and fairy told at night by the great hall fire, which made every banner and helmet on the wall cast gigantic shadows round about the little trembling, wondering listeners, who sat at the knees of the old almoner. Good-by, Don, the greyhound, and Boris, the old toothless, mumbbling wolf-dog, who could do nothing but bay of nights and sit lary in the sun watching Frank and Isabeau as they played in the court or busied themselves in their little garden under their mother's window. How pleased and silent and tender used she to sit and watch them from it! How carefully she will tend Frank's bow when he is away, and clip and water his rose-tree! Isabeau is growing to be a young woman now, and will soon care for other things besides childish pinks and rose bushes; other hopes and desires will swell that fair bosom of hers, and carry her heart far away. But here in this lonely place is all the poor mother's world, and all her little store of happiness is shut in by the old castle gate. How she has treasured up all the lad's sayings; how she will look wistfully of nights at his little vacant bed, and lie long hours thinking of him, her gentle heart full of thoughts inexpressible sad and sweet. Many a risk and danger has he to run in this wild world, so full of snares and temptations; but err and forget as he will, there is one who always remembers, and night and day is praying and yearning for him."

### The Alcott Memorial.

The Concord Woman's Club is heading a movement which has been started to purchase and maintain as a permanent memorial to Louisa M. Alcott the Orchard House, in Concord, Mass., where Miss Alcott wrote "Little Women" and many of her other stories.

The house is almost unchanged in its general features, but is now unoccupied and in great need of repairs. Its desolate condition is a pathetic sight to every one who has loved Louisa Alcott and the characters she created. These characters and stories have given many hours of pleasure, and had a great and wholesome influence on almost every girl who has lived in the last forty years.

### She Guards Her Pocketbook.

"Lovely woman," said Wilton Lackaye, "is nine-tenths suspicion and one-tenth trustfulness. It is true that she is frequently rather reckless in the disposal of her heart, but beware how you touch her pocketbook! A friend of mine had an old colored servant who recently fell violently in love on very short acquaintance. The day before she was to be married she came to her mistress and trusted money to her keeping.

"Way should I keep it? I thought you were going to get married," said her mistress.

"So I did, mister, but does you 'speco the gw' keep all dshyer money in de house wid dat stranger nigger?"



AFTERNOON COSTUMES OF CREPE DE CHINE, FOULARD AND SURAH.

L'Art de la Mode.

## JUST FROCKS---AND

The Separate Coats Worn With Them; the Chiffon Wraps; Linen Crash for Suits, Summer Hats and Toilet Accessories.

Soft taffeta is employed in the make up of the prettiest separate coats that are the special feature of this summer. The taffeta coats appear in charming shades of coral, old blue and green. They have long cat tails and are finished with ruchings and old-time soft puffings. The color of the coat usually repeats some tone used on the frock and blends harmoniously with the hats and sashes worn.

Chiffon is the material most used for lovely evening wraps. Many of the most effective models shown have embroidered or hemstitched borders, lemon yellow being used with orange chiffon, finished otherwise at the neck with soft yellow chiffon roses and dull silver tassels.

Black chiffon coats are edged with black velvet bands that are bordered with rhinestones. The bands cross, forming an X at the back of the neck and a V in front. At the bottom they end in long crystal tassels.

**Openwork Crash.**  
Linen crash displaying a border of square openwork, which simulates drawn work, is a new fabric very popular with suits. The border trims the skirt above the hem, and is used for the shawl collar and cuffs of the coat. Linen crash in the natural shade and of even weave makes splendid wearing suits, especially if the coat is lined with a good quality of light weight satin, which insures much better lines and fit than can possibly be attained in an unlined coat.

**Belts Plain and Striped.**  
Belts of different widths, of crushable leather and other materials, are worn, a very pretty style being of white patent leather, with a gilt buckle. Soft calf belts, with covered buckles of the same, appear in all colors, white and natural calf are lined with silk and very popular. Stripes and block checks, vertical and horizontal stripes and moire, in plain shades, or with fancy borders, diversely belted, with smart gold or plain silver buckles to accompany them.

**Turkish Toweling Hats.**  
Turkish toweling hats in simple

shapes, like rolling sailors, are attractive novelties in young girls' hats for country wear. The fringe is used flat in cross bar effects to form a border. Panamas in new shapes display the large head sizes, which hitherto have been difficult to find.

**Bath Salts.**  
Instead of properly appreciating the delightful and invigorating qualities of bath salts, many Americans have regarded them as an expensive and to-be-dispensed-with luxury. But trips to foreign or American spas might often be dispensed with by the proper use of good medicinal bath salts.

The more delicate bath salts are bought in twenty-four ounce jars. A specially - to-be - commended kind of salts comes in this containing seven muslin bags of salts each, the proper proportion for a good bath.

**Town and Country Cabinet.**  
As a space-saver in a small house or apartment, a clothes cabinet is invaluable. This cabinet is about five feet high and two deep. Each piece comes apart easily, and it all fits in a box about the size of one containing a croquet set. The most attractive cabinets are of white enamel with a skeleton frame covered with material to match the room draperies. The inside is furnished with the same patent system of hangers, which are now installed in up-to-date trunks, and enable one to hang three gowns if necessary on each hanger, and, when they are in place, to swing the entire assortment in view.

**Treatment of Hair.**  
Florence Hull Winterburn, in a sensible and suggestive little volume called "Vacation Hints," gives this advice about the treatment of hair:  
"Notwithstanding that hair dressers ordinarily advocate washing hair every week, it is, in my opinion, too often. Once a fortnight is sufficient, if it is well brushed night and morning. Lack of sufficient sleep does more to injure hair, skin and general looks than any other one thing. This accounts for the worn air that many otherwise blooming young persons have on returning from their country outings."

## The Early Victorians

Harper's Weekly contains an article by H. B. Marriott Watson on the change in manners from early Victorian days to the present time, which will doubtless set many women to thinking.

He says: "Our grandfathers and grandmothers would not know us; I am also inclined to think they would not own us."

Prim and mum sat the daughters of the house in those far-off days with embroidered and samplers. They spoke only when they were required to answer. They played the piano, alas! compulsorily; and they wept copiously on sentimental occasions.

### Old Lady's Point of View.

It is true that a recent book written by an old lady who was a famous figure in those days rather shed a lurid light upon some of their actions.

Was the early Victorian, then, nothing but a white-bellied humbug? Anyway, she was just as human as her granddaughter, and she had manners over her morals as fine as her silk gowns.

### Earlier Days and Nowadays.

I remember the time myself when it was considered improper for a woman to ride in a hansom cab, and in earlier days if she went anywhere unaccompanied it was an offense. Nowadays she can attend matinees by herself and lunch and dine with men in nowise related to her without any one caring two pence about it.

The etiquette of the sexes is certainly looser in America, and there is a large and liberal freedom which is all to the advantage of woman.

### Once Upon a Time.

Once upon a time in England no young girl would have dared to accept as much as a packet of chocolates or a posy from a young man.

### Now Upon a Time.

Now he may send her a confectioner's box, a florist's ship, his motor car, and his box at the opera. So much have we taken from America. Nevertheless, as I have pointed out, the privileges of liberty carry their risks. The increased liberty of one sex reacts upon the other, and helps to make breaches in the ramparts.

## HAPPY CHILDREN---WHO

Will Spend the Summer In the Real Country, Put On Jumpers, Wear Tennis Shoes and Be Perfectly Natural, Normal Beings.

Happy are the children who are looking forward to spending a summer in the real country, where they can feed chickens and ducks and see the cows milked. Where they don't have to dress up in anything finer than jumpers, and can be perfectly natural beings, enjoying the physical part of living as they ought to do.

The appropriate conditions of child life embrace good appetites and good humor, and these conditions will be constantly present, if nature is gently assisted by good parental sense and judgment. Children of to-day are certainly emancipated in the matter of dress and possess untold advantages over poor little manikins who slither in their portraits, hooded and founced, curled be-ruffled and garmented in silks and velvets. Little girls and boys in blue flannel suits, linen jumpers and simple blouses, fare far better.

Keep a child's feet dry and warm. It is a bit of nursery wisdom that finds an echo in the experience of mothers who have tested rubber soled, heelless tennis shoes and found them excellent summer footwear.

There is danger of all sorts of accidents to the child who goes barefoot. All children in the country expect to go paddling in the creek, but the rest of the time shoes should be worn.

Even in the midst of an outdoor life, a child has to be guarded against over-excitement and an undue stimulus of the nervous system. For this reason some care and thought are necessary in the way of diversion that will interest and quiet, and furnish the necessary aid to digestion for an hour after meals.

### Women as Aviators.

The July Strand has an article written by Elizabeth Lovergan which says that a little while ago when a woman in France applied for a mechanician's license in the field of aviation, excitement ran high. When she succeeded in obtaining it and a number of others followed her example, there was still more discussion.

As yet womanly progress has been slow and many of the leading author-

## Famous Epics and Odes

In response to a letter from a woman's literary club, asking a suggestion as to a course of literary study to be followed out next winter, a study of famous epics and odes in poetry is recommended.

Epics are narrative poems, dealing with grave, heroic subjects. The most famous are well known and may be referred to as Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey," Virgil's "Aeneid," the "Nibelungen-Lied," Dante's "Divine Comedy," and Milton's "Paradise Lost." The subject matter varies largely in these epics. For instance, the "Iliad" deals largely with fighting, the "Odyssey," with story telling.

### Some Great Odes.

Insofar as the odes are concerned, Alexander's "Feast," by Dryden, is reckoned by Macaulay to be his best and greatest work. It was set to music by Handel in 1735. Pope is the author of the ode on "St. Cecilia's Day." Her day is November 22, and was formerly celebrated in England with musical entertainments. It was for such entertainments that Pope's and Dryden's "Ode on St. Cecilia" were written. Tennyson's ode on the "Death of the Duke of Wellington" and Lowell's commemorative ode will repay any amount of time and study spent on them. Wordsworth's "Ode on the Intimations of Immortality" has been pronounced by Emerson to be "the high water mark which intellect has reached."

### Old Latin Hymns.

The study of old Latin hymns brings out many deeply interesting facts regarding their origin and authorship. One of the most celebrated of these hymns is the "Dies Irae," probably written by a native of Abruzzi, Thomas of Celano, who died in 1256. Sir Walter Scott begins a translation of this hymn in "The Lay of the Last Minstrel."

"Veri Sancte Spiritus" is ascribed to King Robert of France, and also to Archbishop Langton. The "Stabat Mater" has long formed part of the service during Passion Week in the Roman Catholic Church. It was composed by a Franciscan, Jacopone, during the thirteenth century, and has been set to music both by Pergolesi and Rossini. "L'In fester Burg ist unser Gott" is the title of Martin Luther's well known hymn.

**The Transformation.**  
A story is told of a woman who had an invariable habit of being miserable. For years her complaints were loud and constant.

Then one day she happened to read of a naval disaster. The ship was doomed, but the officers set the band playing, the flags flying, and, dressed in full uniform, with their white gloves on, waited for the ship to go down.

She thought of herself and was ashamed. Never had she met disaster without tears and complaints. "I won't be as I have been any more," she said to herself. "When troubles come to me, though I perish as those officers did, I will meet them as they did, with flags flying, the band playing and my white gloves on," and if the trial were very severe, she would actually put on her best clothes and, with smiling face, go out to perform some act of cheerful kindness.

And after some years the result is that she seems happy and prosperous. People call her fortunate. Another complaining woman said to her, "Oh, it is well enough for you to talk, you who have never known a trouble in your life."

"A trouble in my life!" the cheerful woman said to herself, and stopped to think. "A trouble! Perhaps not; but now, thank God, those which I thought I had seem no longer to have belonged to me, but to some other person living centuries ago."

### A Wise Mother.

When Frederick Temple, late Archbishop of Canterbury, was a poor boy wearing patched clothes and patched shoes, he had the good fortune to have a wise mother who stimulated and encouraged the right kind of ambition, and directed his zeal. One day the boy waxed critical over the inconsistency of English spelling, but his mother chided him gently: "Freddie don't argue; do your work."

The lesson was not lost on his open mind. He followed the sage advice. And long after, when as "Primate of all England, he had arisen to a position scarcely second in dignity and influence to any in the land, he acted on his mother's counsel: "Don't argue; do your work."

### A Woman with a Mission.

The following impudent caricature of a woman with a mission is taken from Tit-Bits, and says:

"She's a woman with a mission; 'tis her heaven-born ambition to reform the world's condition, you will please to note."

"She's a model of propriety; a leader of society, and has a great variety of remedies at hand."

"Each a sovereign specific, with a little scientific, for the cure of things morbid that vex the people sore."

"Or, the swift alleviation, is her fore-ordained vocation on this sublimity shore."

### Trouble Ignoring.

There is in existence a manuscript letter written by Thomas More to his wife Alice, when the news came that the great vision of Chelsea, with its offices and huge granaries, had been almost destroyed by fire.

Instead of lamenting his loss, he writes, "I pray you, Alice, with my children, be merry in God. Find out if any poor neighbors stored their corn in the granaries and recompense them. Discharge your duty until he have another abiding place. Take all the household with you to church, and thank God for what he hath taken and what he hath left."

### A Clock of Flowers.

A curiosity among timepieces is a clock of flowers. It is well known that every blossom has its precise hour for opening its petals, and for closing them. Some open at sunrise and close at sunset; but as a matter of fact, there is not an hour of the day or of the night even, but some flowers begin or end their period.

In Pliny's "Natural History" such flowers were known, and the number since then has been largely increased. From these a floral timepiece has been made.

### Given a Lesson.

Disposed somewhat of gloomy thoughts, especially at such times as her husband was negligent or persecuted by his enemies, Luther's wife was, on one occasion, given this lesson by the great reformer: "Indeed, you torment yourself as if God were not Almighty, and could not produce new Doctor Martins by the score, if the old doctor should happen to drop himself in the sea."

—CAROLINE REYNOLDS, in Smart Set.